

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for determining the authorization of the rendering of a digital recording, the method comprising the steps of:

a) identifying a first section and a last section of a track;

b) decoding a watermark from the first and last sections of the track;

c) determining if at least one reserved bit is marked in the watermark in each of the first and last sections of the track; and

d) determining if sequence IDs are interposed in sections between the first and last sections of the track in sequential order.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, including the additional step of providing at least a preliminary authorization of a rendering of the track if the determinations in steps c and d are both positive.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, including the additional step of denying a rendering of the track if at least one of the determinations in steps c and d are negative.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein subsequent digital tracks that are authorized are rendered with zero time gap interposed therebetween.

5. (Original) A method for making a digital recording comprised of a track having a number of sections positioned sequentially, including a first track section and a last track section, the method comprising:

- a) providing a data stream for recording in the track; and
- b) mixing watermark data with the data stream, the watermark data having at least one reserved bit corresponding to a position in each of the track sections, the reserved bit being marked in the watermark data corresponding to the first track section and the last track section.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the steps

of:

c) converting the mixed watermark data and data stream to a digital form; and

d) recording the track in a recording medium.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the recording medium is a compact disc and the data stream comprises music data.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of recording the track in a recording medium includes recording a sequence ID in each of the sequential track sections, the sequence ID identifying the sequential position of the respective track section in the track.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of recording the track in a recording medium includes recording a sequence ID in each of the sequential track sections, the sequence ID identifying the sequential position of the respective track section among a multiplicity of other tracks, each comprised of track sections.

10. (Original) A recording medium having at least one track of data including a watermark recorded therein, the at least one track of data comprised of a number of track sections, including a first track section and a last track section, the track sections having at least one special bit reserved in the watermark, the special bit being marked in the first track section and the last track section.

11. (Original) The recording medium of Claim 10, wherein the recording medium is a compact disc.

12. (Original) The recording medium of Claim 10, wherein each track section of the track includes sequence ID data that identifies the sequential position of the track section in the track.

13. (Currently amended) The recording medium of Claim 12, wherein the sequence IDs for the sequence of track sections beginning with the first track section and ending with the last track section are 1, 2, ..., n, where n is the number of track sections in the track.

14. (Currently amended) The recording medium of Claim 10, wherein each track section of the track includes sequence ID data that identifies the sequential position of the ~~of the~~ respective track section among a multiplicity of other tracks, each comprised of track sections.

15. (Currently amended) The recording medium of Claim 14, wherein the sequence IDs for the sequence of track[[s]] sections beginning with the first track section and ending with the last track section are $n, n+1, \dots, n+m$, where n is the sequence ID for the first track section and m is the number of track sections in the track.

16. (Original) The recording medium of Claim 10, wherein the track of data comprises music data.

17. (Original) The recording medium of Claim 16, wherein the track of data comprises music data and watermark data that is mixed and converted into a digital form prior to recording the track.

18. (New) A method for determining the authorization of the rendering of a digital recording, the method comprising the steps

of:

- a) decoding a watermark from a first section of a track;
- b) determining if at least one reserved bit is marked in the watermark in the first section of the track; and
- c) denying authorization if the determination in step b is negative.

19) (New) A method for making a digital recording comprised of a track having a number of sections positioned sequentially, including a first track section and a last track section, the method comprising:

- a) providing a data stream for recording in the track; and
- b) mixing watermark data with the data stream, the watermark data having at least one reserved bit corresponding to a position in each of the track sections, the reserved bit being marked in the watermark data corresponding to the first track section.